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Jack pointed out the importance of having columns on each side of a sheet exactly back-back to reduce bleed-thru.

Rod Gowen reported that SMUG BYTES has editor problems and the May issue will be the last unless a volunteer comes forward. Nine years under one editor is quite a record. No wonder the job is now open.

Dick Wagner reported that he also will have to give up the editor job due to his wife's health. Hopefully, he expects to continue to the end of the year.

Rod explained that he might be able to do part of the editor work but his vision eliminates the assembly and mailing part of getting a newsletter out.

Rod also mentioned that the TSNUG newsletter was out and that it is larger than the last issue.

For those users of both LKDOS and MSDOS, Rod reported that it is now possible to use MSDOS text files on the Larken disk system, in READ only. He will have more complete information at the next meeting.

A motion was made to make Dennis Jurries a life time member with newsletter privileges. After some discussion the motion was passed. Dennis is the founding father of our user group.

Don Mall offered some discussion on meeting programs. He thought he could provide a demonstration of an Amiga computer system because of belonging to a Portland Amiga user group. This was viewed with interest by members.

A system of overhead projection using computer techniques was discussed by those who have seen such a system. Apparently a screen similar to flat screens used on laptop computers is the source of imaging.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM

Dick Wagner
Secretary

BITS & BYTES

by: Rod Gowen

In this column I try to bring you the latest and complete information and news available to me regarding the world of TS computing. One way that I can accomplish this is if I have the support of you, the reader, in collecting news that may be of interest to other readers. If you have any news, rumors or other tidbits of information that fits this description, why not send it along? We will be watching!

BURNOUT STRIKES AGAIN!-----

Yes readers, our old nemesis "burnout" has struck again! We received our issue of SMUG BYTES, the newsletter of the Milwaukee, WI user group and we read that BILL HEBERLEIN, the editor of SMUG BYTES for the almost 9-1/2 years is calling it quits and it seems that there is no one in that VERY active group who will pick up the ball and run! I know I have said it before, but I will say it again, WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU PEOPLE? You want a support group. You want help when you need it. You want service when you need it. You want someone to share your successes and failures on your computer. WANT-WANT-WANT! Well, I'll tell you what I want!---I WANT TO SEE EVERY MEMBER IN EVERY GROUP DOING HIS OR HER FAIR SHARE! Think I'll live long enough? I doubt it!

PLOTTER TO NEED NEW EDITOR AS WELL!-

DICK WAGNER, our editor for the past 6 years or so, is in the un-enviable position of having to relinquish his chair as editor of THE PLOTTER. Now we, the group, are in the position of needing a person or persons to take over the majority of the work involved in putting this publication out. I am already writing from 2-4 items per issue (2-4 pages) and would be willing to help out by printing the front and back pages as well as any other articles submitted on disk in LKDAS/TASWORD or ASCII/MS-DOS formats. What we will need is help with layout and paste-up, photo copying, addressing and mailing. Do we get some volunteers or does THE PLOTTER fade out like so many others

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have done?

"THE BEST OF"-PROJECT:

The project continues--- At the March meeting some sample covers were looked over along with some cover pages and section separators. What we hope will be the final samples will be at the April meeting. Jack Armstrong along with Bill and Alice Dunlop are busily entering the material to be printed. Dick Wagner has worked out a method to print the program listings from both the 1000 and the 2068 on the 2068. It is looking more and more as though the book will be in the neighborhood of 90-100 pages.

As far as interest in this book, RMG has now had over 10 calls expressing intentions to purchase the book as soon as it is available. At the current rate of call and letters and the rate at which we are getting the book done, we will have about 25 orders as soon as it is ready!

NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE-

I have had a LOT of reading to do in the last few weeks. It seems as though the exchange newsletters pile up rather quickly if I don't get to them right away! I have scanned and read over 30 newsletters in 2 weeks.

We have lost a couple and gained some new ones over the past year or so. I really cannot see any newsletter folding for "lack of news" as some may say. I see a real wealth of information that NEEDS to be passed on to our own group members and the readers of THE PLOTTER who may not have access to these other fine newsletters.

A couple of the best newsletters that come in on a regular basis, be it monthly or bi-monthly, are: SINC-LINK from the TORONTO USERS CLUB and L.I.S.T. from the LONG ISLAND, NY group. I recommend that anyone who wants to see the TS community continue subscribe to as many of the existing newsletters as they can possibly afford!

We even have had a new newsletter start up in 1991. ZX-91, from a fellow up in Canada who produces the

entire thing on a ZX-81 computer!

On this note, I have a LATE FLASH!-- The current issue of ZXir Clive Alive! newsletter just arrived! This is the TSNUG newsletter. I will read my copy and report on it next time. The club copy will be added to the library. I sincerely hope that YOU have joined and are receiving your own copy!

NEW AT RMG---

RMG now has a couple of new public domain disks in their library. One is from George Chambers and allows you to bring ASCII text files directly across from an MS-DOS disk to a Larken LK-DOS disk in Mscript file format. It really works! I just wish we could go the other direction. The second one of interest is an MS-DOS disk with a package that allows one to run SPECTRUM programs on your IBM compatible. I have not had time to test this one out yet, but will let you know more later. Both of these as well as all other program disks in the PD library at RMG are just \$3.50 per disk plus shipping. There will be some other new additions within a couple of weeks. Keep reading.

That's if for now!
See you next time. . .

LARKEN TIP---

by: Rod Gowen

How many of you loyal Larken users out there have ever had this happen to you?- You are working on a program or file, gotten ready to save it to disk, sent it to the disk only to have accidentally entered a non-existant drive number or forgot to put a disk into the drive and had the system simply sit there waiting for you to do something that you could not do? If so, this tip will probably be of some use to you in the future if it should happen again, and we know it will!

When it does, try this: While th computer is sitting there waiting, press the NMI button on your Larken

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controller board. After the "beep"
press the "1" (one) key. If this
fails, press the NMI button again
and then press the "A" key. I have
found that 95% of the times that
this has occurred on my system I
have been able to get out of it
using one of these plays.

If someone knows of a better way, I
would be glad to hear about it!

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

It has been some time since I last
wrote a column under this heading.
There have been a few things that
have happened that are hardly
article material so this is a good
place to use them.

Semi-disaster hit me twice in the
last few months. My old trusty 2068
with Jack Dohany's special 2068/-
Spectrum EPROM suddenly developed
symptoms of loss of memory. Ah ha,
those memory chips must have sprung
a leak because on power-up FREE
showed all fo 6012 bytes of memory.
Hardly enough to run MSCRIPT which
wouldn't load. I located some 4416
120 ns chips from Jameco at \$1.25
each so a replace- ment was made
with new chips. Still showed 6012
bytes so that wasn't the problem.

Some serious searching of memory
showed some interesting happenings.
From about 33K on up it was all
filled with 2s! Below 33K there were
more odities. Here there was a
consistant sequence of 26 zeros and
6 bytes of code, the last byte
usually 70. As a wild thought I
replaced the CPU with no
improvement. The old EPROM I had on
hand wouldn't work possibly because
of circuit changes I had made. The
last resort was to drop Jack a
letter with explanations. His
immediate solution was to just ship
a spare 2068 with revisions by
priority mail. Say what you will
about Jack's slow response, this was
FAST. Now I have the spare 2068 put
away for any future trouble.
Shipping the defective computer back
was easy.

The second problem became apparent
when I attempted to format 3 1/2
inch disks after installing a 3 1/2
inch drive. I had not used the drive
for formatting so was not aware of
a problem. Each time I tried the
screen displayed a "defective 0
track or other problem". The disks
formatted OK on another computer, so
that was not the problem.

As mentioned in our minutes, it was
necessary for me to relinquish the
editing at least by the end of the
year. It is a guess that I can
continue that long. I expect to
continue with writing support as
much as possible.

In these years of being associated
with The Plotter, only our group
members know what I look like.
Therefore it seems appropriate to
show a facsimile, where The Editor
is getting started on a "cut &
paste" session--



It takes a bit of doing to to get
this newsletter out on schedule as
there is NEVER a supply of material
in advance. My trusty old timer
helps in doing this.



the plotter

pc page

by: Rod Gowen

Have you ever noticed that, every once in a while you come across a piece of software that you feel you just have to tell folks about? Well, I just acquired such a program: DOUBLEDISK V2.6! What a great alternative to having to having to purchase a second or larger hard drive.

Let me start at the beginning. I have a 286/16 in my office with a 40Mb hard drive which was always almost full. Every couple of weeks I would have to try to remove something that was not being used daily and switch in the program that I currently wanted to run. Or, I had to install some programs on floppy disk to save the hard drive for more often used programs. Either way, it was getting to be a tedious pain! Then, I received an ad flyer from Vertisoft that was promoting DOUBLEDISK V2.6. After reading the normal amount of "hype" I called the company's 800 number to ask some questions that the flyer did not answer. After a few minutes and with a guarantee that, if it did not perform as advertised, I could return it for a full refund. I placed my order and waited. explain it afterwards.

When the package arrived, I quickly installed it on a "test" computer to see what it did. The following is what I found:

The 40Mb drive on the test computer had about 11Mb of software already installed on it. I put the DOUBLEDISK disk in drive A: and ran INSTALL. After answering a few simple questions the program was installed and the system rebooted. I had created my first EXTENDED DRIVE, drive D:. It was using 10Mb of the existing drive C:. I then proceeded to run the utility package that is supplied DDUTIL and created 2 more 10Mb EXTENDED DRIVES, naming them E: and F:. I then proceeded to change to D: and, using XCOPY, proceeded to copy all files and sub directories from drive C: onto D:. This step was duplicated twice more on E: and F:. The following table shows what I ended up with:

| DRIVE | SIZE | USED | FREE |
|-------|------------|------------|------------|
| C: | 44,486,656 | 31,610,880 | 1,273,856 |
| D: | 10,512,000 | 11,599,872 | 3,031,539 |
| E: | 10,512,000 | 11,599,872 | 3,031,539 |
| F: | 10,512,000 | 11,599,872 | 3,031,539 |
| ===== | | | |
| 4 DR. | 76,022,656 | 66,410,496 | 10,368,473 |

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As you can see, I now have quite a bit more usable disk space than I started out with. The slight discrepancies in the figures are due to the usage of "projected capacities" in the FREE column. You can also see that my 42Mb drive had become a 70+Mb drive, and, instead of having only 2-3Mb open, I now have 10Mb of space available! That's over 1/3 more space with very little effort or cost.

You can also EXPAND or SHRINK these EXTENDED DRIVES while there is data in them WITHOUT LOSING A THING! Using DDUTIL you can create, delete, expand, shrink, format, verify assign or set a password for an EXTENDED DRIVE.

Instead of CHKDSK you use DDINFO to find out what the stats are for the EXTENDED DRIVES. CHKDSK is fooled by DOUBLEDISK into thinking that the EXTENDED DISK is actually the largest possible drive your system will handle, 256Mb in my case on an AT. On an XT with DOS 3.3 it would report 32Mb.

To do a DIR on an EXTENDED DISK you use DDIR, also supplied with the package. It tells you the actual size of the files as well as the compressed size and the compression ratio and percentage of saved space.

You get a complete set of utilities with the package. Along with the ones mentioned above, you also get DDASSIGN, DDUNERASE, DDSWITCH, DDREMOVE and DRVOFF.

The documentation is well written and easy to follow. There are help pages available on-screen that make the manual unnecessary in most cases.

Now we come the spot where you ask me, "If it is compressing the files as it copies the files to the EXTENDED DISK then how much S-L-O-W-E-R do they run?" You may not believe it, but there is NO APPRECIABLE SLOWDOWN in either running or using any of the files I have been using on the EXTENDED DISK for the past 2 weeks! I am running 1-2-3 (tm), several databases, many word processing files, utilities and financial programs and have had no problems to date. Operations are normal even when doing my backups. I use FASTBACK PLUS 2.1 which works just as it did on the normal drive C:. I have also used Fastback Plus to restore files with perfect results as well.

I am really sold on this particular piece of software. I think that for the price, \$99.95 retail (can be found for up to 50% off) it is well worth the price. To top it off, they even include 2 other great programs AT NO EXTRA COST! NOW! and ORG come with the package. NOW! is a great intuitive caching program. ORG is for ORGAnizer, which tells you what it is, a neat little disk organizer or de-fragmentizer program. I strongly recommend the use of this one to defragmentize the EXTENDED DISK as well as any standard disk, floppy or hard.

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As I said, it is a great savings if you are looking to get more disk without adding an expensive physical drive. It may be temporary if to use more and more software, but it will delay the larger expense investing in a new, larger hard drive. For some, like myself, it may be a permanent fix. If you have any questions about it or want to know how to get it, drop me a line.

In any case, I'd really like to hear what you think of the column you would like to see appear here. How about a software review for

'Till next time, hope you enjoy your computer!

2068 WORD PROCESSING

The following information only pertains to MSCRIPT V5.3. This version was set up by Jack Dohany to operate with the Oliger SAFE DOS, and with cassette. There are other versions for most of the other storage systems.

Why get into the word processor controversy? An article in the latest TSNUG publication reminded me that I had planned to make another review on MSCRIPT, a little more complete this time. Actually, I am not getting into a controversy as this article simply explains many of the features and not on a comparison with any other word processor program. If the reader wants comparisons with other word processor programs then this is not the place to get it. Read up on those other programs and draw your own conclusions based on your needs, not what someone else thinks is the best, so-so, or not so good.

MSCRIPT V5 takes up about 3167 bytes for the BASIC program, and about 10,000 bytes for the machine code starting at address 35000. Files generated with the program start at about 46927 and the number of bytes depends upon the data keyed in.

Loading in MSCRIPT automatically loads the operating MC. The main

menu is displayed on the screen first, no flashing lights and pictures. There are 21 commands displayed for V5.3 unless Jack has made changes. The first letter of any command will activate that command with a displayed line near the bottom of the screen, ready for an input. The file name may be assigned at this point, as well as other selections. Some handy references are also displayed on this page. The starting address, the number of bytes available for the new file, the number of bytes in the file, and the starting and ending addresses of a marked file.

There are four different printer interfaces available on my program, Aerco, A & J, Tasman, and 2040. Formatting of a new disk can be done on command. The number of copies to be printed can be defined. To leave the main menu "T" must be input which puts the program in edit mode. From this mode the user can access the other two menus.

To delete the data displayed, return to the main menu and use the KILL command. This command really is not completed until another file is loaded, so RESTORE will reactivate the file if it was deleted by mistake. LOAD a file is made by using the appropriate storage device as keyed in with the USE command. CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE--

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